BPL has the potential to cause significant interference to the Amateur Radio service and other vital users of the short wave spectrum. The short wave frequencies are unique because they permit direct wireless long distance communications without the use of intermediate equipment such as satellites. They are therefore especially important for emergency communications.

Radio frequency interference has always been a problem in short wave communications, but has been largely successfully controlled by technical means. Extraordinary care should be taken to ensure that the usefulness of the short wave spectrum is not adversely affected by BPL.